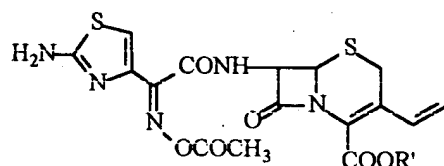


CLAIMS

We claim:

- 5 1. A process for preparing a cephalosporin of Formula II

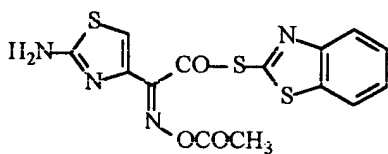


Formula II

$R' = H$, any carboxyl protecting group or silyl group.

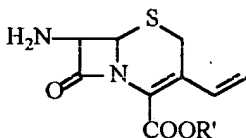
comprising the steps of:

- 10 reacting O-acetyl thioester of Formula I



Formula I

with a compound of Formula III in the presence of a base in suitable solvent



Formula III

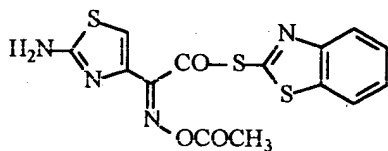
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wherein $R' = H$, any carboxyl protecting group or a silyl group,
converting to cefdinir by the removal of protecting group or groups.

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2. The process according to claim 1 wherein the said base can be organic base
or an inorganic base.

3. The process according to claim 1 wherein the said organic base is an amine selected from the group consisting of triethylamine, diisopropylethylamine, tributylamine.
- 5 4. The process according to claim 1 wherein the said inorganic base is selected from the group consisting of sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate and mixtures thereof.
- 10 5. The process according to claim 1 wherein the said solvent is selected from the group consisting of water, tetrahydrofuran, methylene dichloride and mixtures thereof.
- 15 6. The process according to claim 1 wherein the said reacting step is conducted at a temperature between 10 and 25°C.
7. The process according to Claim 1 wherein the said carboxyl protecting group is selected from the group consisting of *p*-methoxybenzyl, *p*-nitrobenzyl and diphenylmethyl.
- 20 8. The process to prepare O-acetyl thioester of Formula I



Formula I

- which comprises of
- condensing (Z)-2-(2-amino-4-thiazolyl)-2-acetyloximinopropionic acid with
- 25 bis(benzothiazol-2-yl)disulphide in the presence of triphenylphosphine and a base in a suitable solvent.
9. The process according to claim 8 wherein the said base is selected from the group consisting of tributylamine, triethylamine and mixtures thereof.

10. The process according to claim 8 wherein the said solvent is selected from the group consisting of methylene dichloride, chloroform, tetrahydrofuran, acetonitrile and mixtures thereof.

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11. The process according to claim 8 wherein the said reacting step is conducted at a temperature between 0 and 35°C.

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